

short bill, and crouches forward, making a hissing noise. It looks a strange compound of the young Wryneck and Kingfisher. They do not stand upright till nearly fledged. Their crests develope at once, but their bills do not acquire their full length till the following year. I am writing this note about the Hoopoes from memory. I forget in what year I made observations on their nesting, and I have not now time to hunt through my file of note-books. As the history of the Hoopoe appears to be so little known at home, I will pay special attention to it in future.

XIV.—*Notices of Recent Ornithological Publications.*

I. ENGLISH.

THE Ninth and Tenth parts of Mr. Gould's 'Birds of Great Britain' made their appearance on the 1st of August and September last respectively, and fully sustain the encomiums that have been passed on their predecessors. The following is a list of the species they illustrate:—

PART IX.

Eagle Owl.	Thrush.
Roller.	Blackbird.
Woodcock.	Cream-coloured Courser.
Squacco Heron.	Lesser Redpole.
Stock-Dove.	Mealy Redpole.
Crested Lark.	Savi's Warbler.
Tawny Pipit.	Razorbill.
Tree-Pipit.	

PART X.

Honey-Buzzard.	Grey Phalarope (winter plumage).
Jackdaw.	Ditto (summer plumage).
Goosander.	Red-necked Phalarope.
Hooded Merganser.	Turnstone.
Robin or Redbreast.	Marsh-Tit.
Yellowhammer or Yellow Bunting.	Grasshopper Warbler.
Cirl Bunting.	Sabine's Gull.
Ortolan Bunting.	

Anthus campestris, whose appearance as a "British Bird" (a title to which it has far better claims than many other species) was originally recorded in 'The Ibis' (1863, pp. 37-39), here

for the first time figures in that character*. We do not know that anything else in these two parts especially calls for remark ; but Mr. Gould gives some interesting particulars of the "Chasse aux Grives" (*Turdus musicus*) as carried on in Belgium during the autumnal migration, which will probably be new to most English readers.

The first volume of Mr. Stevenson's 'Birds of Norfolk'† will, we are sure, be welcomed by all our readers in this country with great delight ; for we have no hesitation in saying that it is the most meritorious book of its kind that has appeared for many years. Unlike many other authors we could name, Mr. Stevenson has neglected no sources of information bearing on the subject ; and he has been singularly successful in obtaining the cooperation of almost every person in the county at all addicted to ornithology ; and such persons are, and probably have long been, more abundant in Norfolk than elsewhere. It is unnecessary, we think, to dwell at any length on this work ; we will only remark that, though it possibly might have been predicated, it has never before been demonstrated that the *Ornis* of Norfolk is sensibly affected by its proximity, as compared with other English counties, to Scandinavia. This is shown by several indications. The Dipper and Bluethroat which appear in Norfolk are the *Cinclus melanogaster* and the true *Cyanecula suecica* of the north. So also *Anthus rupestris*, as distinguished from *A. obscurus*, has been found there, as before mentioned in these pages (*Ibis*, 1865, p. 237) ; while the curious dark-visaged race of *Strix flammea*, which appears to be peculiar to the Cimbric Peninsula and some of the Danish Islands, and which, wonderful to say, does not seem to have ever received a distinct

* Of course the matter is of no real importance ; but we may remark that, in the list appended to Mr. Newman's edition of Montagu's 'Ornithological Dictionary' (p. 397), credit is given to the 'Zoologist' for being "the source whence the record" of this bird's occurrence was obtained, though in the body of the work (p. 195) the Editor rightly attributes "the first notice of this species as British" to this Journal.

† The Birds of Norfolk, with Remarks on their Habits, Migration, and Local Distribution : by HENRY STEVENSON, F.L.S. In two vols. Vol. I. London : 1866. Demy 8vo, pp. 445.

specific name, has also occurred in the county, and the specimen may be seen in the fine Museum at Norwich.

In Mr. Colquhoun's 'Sporting Days' * we find two ornithological facts which require record here. The first is the observation by the author himself of three examples of *Mergus cucullatus* (pp. 20, 21) in the Firth of Forth, on the 5th May, 1853, as he has kindly informed us; and the second, that in the Isle of Bute, on two occasions, *Corvus corone* and *C. cornix* were found paired and breeding together (p. 104). "In both cases the females were black and the males grey."

In 1862 three gentlemen, who, we are glad to say, have since cast in their lot among the 'Ibis' brotherhood, betook themselves to Iceland in the then sanguine hope of finding there the breeding-quarters of some of those birds whose summer-haunts have so long been the puzzle of every ornithologist—egg-dealers (if they are to be believed) excepted. Two of them, Messrs. Shepherd and Upcher, as our readers know, have subsequently won glory in the Holy Land by joining the memorable crusade led by that successful follower of Peter the Hermit, Mr. Tristram; and the first has now, in an amusing little book, given us an account of their Icelandic experiences five years ago†. Our three friends in the course of their tour visited a part of the island previously unattempted by any English traveller, after endeavouring in vain to establish themselves for the season on the bleak Arnarvatns-heiði. They were more successful in their efforts at Myvatn. The worst of the book is that there is so little ornithology in it; but as the expedition was expressly undertaken in the interest of our science it is only right we should here notice it.

From the notice prefixed to a little pamphlet‡ which Mr.

* *Sporting Days*. By JOHN COLQUHOUN. Edinburgh and London: 1866. Small 8vo, pp. 255.

† *The North-west Peninsula of Iceland: being the Journal of a Tour in Iceland in the Spring and Summer of 1862*. By C. W. SHEPHERD, M.A., F.Z.S. London: 1867. Fcp. 8vo, pp. 162.

‡ *Birds found in Malta and Gozo, with their English, Maltese, and Latin names*. By WILLIAM GRANT. La Valetta: 1866.

Slater has been kind enough to show us, we learn that the author, Mr. William Grant, intends to publish a more extensive work on the Ornithology of Malta. Though the readers of this journal have derived from Mr. Wright's instructive papers published in its pages (*Ibis*, 1864, pp. 42, 137, and 291, and 1865, p. 459) much information on the subject, we are sure they will be glad to learn more. The present work, however, contains only a list of names, with marks to indicate the comparative abundance or rarity of the 308 species enumerated, if we except the prefatory note above mentioned, in which brief reference is made to the irregularity of birds' visits to the island. In certain years, species which are in general very rarely found there arrive abundantly. For example, last year (1866) *Regulus ignicapillus* and *Cursorius gallicus* passed in great numbers. *Actiturus bartramius* seems to be one of the most recently recorded stragglers.

2. FRENCH.

The 'Ornithologie Européenne,' published in 1849 by the late Dr. Degland, provoked, as most of our readers know, from the pen of Prince C. L. Bonaparte one of the sharpest critical reviews to be found in ornithological literature. Nor was the censure, as it seems to us, wholly undeserved. The author had worked, as his critic remarked of him, "without a collection and without a library," two absolutely necessary requirements for the due treatment of the subject; and the results were as might have been expected. Still the Prince's review was of the kind commonly known as "savage," and actuated by a spirit which it is now the fashion to term "Philistinism," whatever that may mean. He says that in countries where the labours of the great German ornithologists, "ces astres lumineux de notre science," are unknown the poor Doctor might pass for a comet, "destinée à populariser l'Ornithologie et à en marquer l'état à la moitié de ce siècle du progrès;" but little consolation was to be gathered from that or from a few other equally equivocal compliments. It is not surprising, therefore, that the author thus mercilessly handled should have prepared to vindicate himself. At first he intended (as we now learn) to publish a supplementary volume, in which he would have replied

to the Prince's attacks; but before this could be completed he succumbed, in 1856, to a fatal disease. The materials he had collected for this purpose passed into the hands of his friend M. Gerbe, a well-known French ornithologist, who has now at length been able to publish them, not, however, in the form originally intended, but in the far more preferable one of a second edition, in which they are incorporated so as to make a complete work*.

M. Gerbe informs us that he has done his best to put this edition *au courant* with science, and that he considers he has done enough to justify him in placing his own name on the titlepage alongside of Dr. Degland's, on which last point we quite agree with him. As to the first, we are sorry to say he might have been expected to have done more. He shows, we admit, a very good knowledge of French, and to a more limited extent of German, ornithological literature since 1849; he is also acquainted with the third edition of Yarrell's work, published in 1856, and with such ornithological papers as have appeared in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History;' but, as a rule, most other foreign journals are ignored or quoted at second-hand. So, at least, we imagine; for we find 'Naumannia' inserted in the list of works cited as dating from 1850, and 'The Ibis' from 1853—pleasant, certainly, to be taken for six years older than we really are! However, we would readily pardon this mistake as a mere clerical or typographical error, did we not find the "holy fowl" accused of an astounding assertion. Speaking of the mysterious advent to Europe of our old friend *Syrhaptus paradoxus*, M. Gerbe (vol. ii. p. 30) says:—"Ainsi, d'après le journal *l'Ibis* (1859, p. 471), un individu, faisant actuellement partie du Musée de Liverpool, a été tué en 1859 dans le canton de Norfolk. Cet individu, d'après l'auteur de l'article, appartenait probablement à la bande qui avait été vue, le 9 juillet, à Tremadoc en Galles, et dont a parlé M. T. G. Moore dans le *Zoologist* (1859, p. 6725). Le même journal

* Ornithologie Européenne ou Catalogue descriptif, analytique et raisonné des Oiseaux observés en Europe. Deuxième édition, entièrement refondue par C. D. DEGLAND, Z. GERBE. Paris: 1867. 2 vols. 8vo, pp. 610 & 637. (Baillière.)

cite une autre capture faite dans le Jutland, en 1861." Now the several mistakes in the above extract, which our readers will know how to correct for themselves, are also made precisely in the same manner by Dr. de Montessus in the '*Revue de Zoologie*' (1863, p. 403). The author last named certainly commits an additional geographical blunder (speaking of Jutland as a "contrée de Groënland"), which M. Gerbe avoids; but it is very singular that the latter should have otherwise so carefully fallen into the same mistakes as his predecessor if he had personally consulted the original notices; and we are accordingly afraid M. Gerbe has not done '*The Ibis*' the honour of personally consulting its pages.

We have selected this instance of M. Gerbe's neglect of the ordinary channels of information partly because of its bearing on this journal; and it would be extremely easy to cite a large number of similar cases; but by so doing we should probably give a very unfair impression of his labours, in praise of which much is to be said. Indeed to do justice to the work, a commentary by a competent writer, such as that on Dr. Jerdon's '*Birds of India*' with which Mr. Blyth has enriched our pages, would be required. But we regret to say that we have no hope of being able to lay such a commentary before our readers, and we must content ourselves by expressing a wish that the next writer on European ornithology may not blindly follow M. Gerbe's statements under the idea that he has exhausted all existing sources of information on the subject.

We have great pleasure in stating that M. Alphonse Milne-Edwards has commenced the publication of his researches on the Fossil Birds of France, of which we lately spoke (*Ibis*, 1866, p. 413), and we are indebted to his kindness for the valuable gift of the three parts which have already appeared*. These contain seven sheets of letterpress and fifteen lithographic plates very beautifully executed. It is perhaps too early to speak of the general principles of the work; but we have

* *Recherches anatomiques et paléontologiques pour servir à l'histoire des Oiseaux Fossiles de la France.* Par ALPHONSE MILNE-EDWARDS. Livraisons 1-3. Paris: 1867. 4to.

een quite enough to enable us to declare that this important subject is being most ably treated; and we can well understand the 'Grand Prix des Sciences Physiques' being adjudged to the author. At present the only extinct species illustrated in the plates are *Anas blanchardi*, from the tertiary deposits of the Allier, and *A. velox* and *A. sansaniensis*, from the miocene of the hill of Sansan (Gers). Of the former, very considerable remains exist. Fossil bones of *Anas boschas*, *A. crecca*, *Cygnus ferus*, and *Anser cinereus*, from caverns or peat, are also figured. The work, it is announced, when complete, will consist of two volumes of text and one of plates, about two hundred in number, and the price to subscribers the modest sum of 200 francs only.

At a meeting of the Société Impériale d'Acclimatation, on the 20th of April 1866, M. Geoffroy announced the arrival of a collection of bird-skins, made in the north of China and sent by M. Dabry, French consul at Hankow, in which were contained some specimens of a beautiful new Monâl, proposed to be called *Lophophorus lhuysi*. It has a longer and stronger bill and stouter legs than the well-known *L. impeyanus*. Its tail-feathers are ornamented by metallic-blue reflexions. The head has no crest, strictly speaking; but the feathers of the nape are somewhat elongated. L'huys's Monâl is a larger and finer bird than its congener, the well-known Impeyan Pheasant.

3. DUTCH AND BELGIAN.

The concluding portions of the third volume of the 'Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor de Dierkunde' consist almost entirely of ornithological papers, contributed by MM. Schlegel, Crommelin, Pollen, and Keulemans. The very small space which we are able to devote to literary notices compels us to speak of them in the briefest manner possible. Professor Schlegel's three articles, entitled "Observations Zoologiques," contain descriptions of several new species, all, we believe, discovered by Dutch travellers or residents in the Malay Archipelago, besides numerous facts or opinions respecting other birds. In addition to these, he has longer or shorter notices of the species of the

genera *Megapodius*, *Chalcophaps*, *Tanysiptera*, *Cacatua*, and *Nisus*. M. Crommelin's papers refer chiefly to the ornithology of Holland; and M. Keuleman's contribution consists of remarks on the birds of the Cape Verde Islands, and the Ilha do Principe in the Gulf of Guinea.

M. de la Fontaine has completed the ornithological portion of his Fauna of Luxembourg*, the first part of which we noticed last year (*Ibis*, 1866, p. 210). Two hundred and seventy-six species are enumerated; but from this number should probably be deducted nearly a dozen for poultry, pigeons, and species of a very doubtful character, such as *Cuculus hepaticus* (p. 161) and *Perdix damascena* (p. 165). The author includes "*Ardea minor*, Wils." (p. 214), which he curiously states is probably identical with the Common Bittern. We greatly doubt his having seen a real example of the American species so named by Wilson, and we are not aware that Professor Schlegel has ever refused to acknowledge the distinctness of *Botaurus lentiginosus* and *B. stellaris*. As the nationality of the Luxembourgish is just now supposed to be a matter of importance in high quarters, perhaps M. de la Fontaine will pardon our pointing out this case; for it would seem undesirable to further complicate the question by the needless introduction of an American element.

Under the title of 'Archives Cosmologiques' and the editorship of M. Alphonse Dubois, a new periodical has recently made its appearance at Brussels. How far it will be successful we cannot pretend to say; but, in the interest of a special branch of natural science, we must protest against the publication, in a journal which professes to take in, besides Biology, Medicine, Agriculture, the Arts, and Industry, of any papers but those of a most general character. When we consider the enormous

* Faune du Pays de Luxembourg, ou Manuel de Zoologie contenant la description des Animaux Vertébrés observés dans le Pays de Luxembourg. Par ALPHONSE DE LA FONTAINE. Oiseaux.—Deuxième Partie. Luxembourg: 1866. 8vo, pp. 174.

extent of periodical literature in these days, it is beyond the power of almost all private persons to read, and still less to purchase, any but journals mainly devoted to their own special pursuits; and, without passing an opinion on the "Note sur le nid du *Megalophus regius*," illustrated by a highly coloured plate of the bird, its nest, and its eggs, which the editor himself contributes to the first number of his new magazine, we cannot but wonder at its association with other articles treating of chemical, botanical, and astronomical subjects.

4. GERMAN.

To the kindness of our good friend Dr. Hartlaub we owe the receipt of a separately printed copy of an Introduction to the Ornithology of the Feejee, Samoa, and Tonga Islands*—a subject on which he, in conjunction with Herr Otto Finsch, has been some time engaged, and respecting which we look with impatience for the results of their united labours. In this introduction we have first a rapid but comprehensive sketch of the progressive steps in our knowledge of the ornithology of this interesting part of the world, from the time of Banks and the two Forsters, the shipmates of Cook, down to the present day. This is followed by an equally concise physico-geographical account of the three groups of islands; and the essay is concluded by a masterly summary of their ornithological features. We suppose that detailed accounts of the species, in the manner of Dr. Hartlaub's well-known treatises on the birds of West Africa and of Madagascar, will in due time make their appearance, and we cannot doubt that the whole book, when completed, will be a worthy successor of those useful works. Meanwhile we venture, notwithstanding that the remark is of a somewhat personal nature, to observe that the egg of *Didunculus* has not been made known, as Dr. Hartlaub states, through the means of our learned and excellent colleague Mr. Selater, who, we are quite sure, would be the last person to wish that any credit due to another should be attributed to him. It is to Mr. Bartlett, who rescued the interesting specimen from the man

* Einleitung zur Ornithologie der Viti-, Samoa- und Tonga-Gruppe, von Dr. G. HARTLAUB. (Separatabdruck.) 8vo, pp. 24.

who brought the living bird to England, and before depositing it in the British Museum placed it in our unworthy hands for description, that the honour must be given; and but for an accidental mischance, its portrait would have long since appeared in the Zoological 'Proceedings.'

Though we must own that we have not read the three somewhat bulky volumes in which Baron J. W. von Müller* records his adventures in the United States of America, Canada, and Mexico, we feel it a duty to our readers to point out the existence of the work, of which some of them perhaps might otherwise never hear. This, too, is the more incumbent upon us because the Baron's third volume (which, we believe, is published separately with the title of 'Beiträge zur Geschichte, Statistik und Zoologie von Mexico') contains a systematic catalogue of the Mexican Vertebrates, in which, as might be expected, the birds figure largely, 611 species being enumerated. Of these, *Trogon erythronotus*, *Tachyphonus schlagintweiti*, *Melospiza pectoralis*, and *Aimophila* (lege *Hæmophila*) *tolteca* are described as new. The work is embellished with some very pretty illustrations; but of its literary qualities, for the reason above given, we naturally abstain from giving any opinion, though it would seem impossible that it should not contain much that is of interest to those who occupy themselves with the ornithology of the New World.

Dr. Rudolph Dieck's treatise on the Sternum of Birds†, though creditable enough for a maiden effort, would perhaps hardly require notice here but for one of the theses maintained by the author, "Sternum ad definiendum oscinum genus optimum esse signum," a conclusion to which we cannot give our general assent, since it is in the group to which the name *Oscines* has been assigned that the greatest uniformity of sternal structure is observable. We are also somewhat surprised to

* Reisen in den Vereinigten Staaten, Canada und Mexico von Baron J. W. von MÜLLER. In drei Bänden. 8vo. Leipzig: 1864-5.

† De Sterno Avium, dissertatio inauguralis quam &c. publice defendet Auctor, RUDOLPHUS DIECK. Halis Saxonum. 8vo, pp. 31. [1865.]

find the new Doctor speaking of “*claviculæ avium, quæ etiam ossa coracoidea nominari solent* ;” for we had thought it was now universally recognized that in birds the furcula, and not the coracoids, represented the clavicles. The author gives a list of the species (115 in number) whose sternums he has closely examined. A large proportion of them are American, and among them we find that not at all common bird *Ictinia mississippiensis* ; but there is a great lack of the forms which deviate most from the ordinary rule, such, for instance, as occur among the *Picariæ* and *Grallæ* ; and it is probably from this cause that Dr. Dieck abstains from stating what his views are on the general classification of birds.

5. AMERICAN.

Mr. Lawrence in the ‘Annals’ of the New York Lyceum for December last, describes as new six species of Birds—*Hirundo æquatorialis* from Ecuador, *Thamnophilus leucopygus* and *Empidonax pectoralis* from the Isthmus of Panama, and three Humming-birds. To Mr. Gould we are indebted for the information that he has received from Mr. Lawrence the types of these last, that *Heliodoxa henryi* is identical with *H. jacula*, that *Thaumatias viridicaudus* is the female of *Chrysuronia humboldti*, and that *Amazilia (Pyrrhophæna) graysoni* differs only in size from *P. cinnamomea*.

In our notice in the last ‘Ibis’ of Dr. Coues’s paper on the ornithology of Arizona (*suprà*, pp. 130, 131) we omitted to mention, as we ought to have done, that the bird referred with doubt by that gentleman in our own pages (Ibis, 1865, p. 164) to *Vireo solitarius* is his new *V. plumbeus*, and that spoken of by him in the same interesting article (p. 165) as being either *Melospiza melodia* or *M. heermanni* proves to be *M. fallax*.

XV.—Letters, Announcements, &c.

THE following letters, addressed “To the Editor of ‘The Ibis,’” have been received :—

Kustendjie, Bulgaria, 1866.

SIR,—The claims of *Aquila nævioides* to a place among the birds of Europe have several times been urged in ‘The Ibis.’